



Inter-Faith Ministries

People of faith uniting to meet human needs

Friday, December 23, 2005

Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns
Farm Bill
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3355

Dear Secretary Johanns:

For 120 years, Inter-Faith Ministries has united people of faith to meet the human needs of this community. Inter-Faith Ministries' twelve programs include homeless services, permanent housing with supportive services for those transitioning out of homelessness, programs for at-risk youth, eldercare, and direct emergency food service programs. Inter-Faith Ministries' provides direct service programs, including Operation Holiday and Homeless Services' food ministry. In 2005, Operation Holiday served 11,540 people (5,700 of whom were children under 14) by providing food, food vouchers, blankets, and coats. During the same year, Homeless Services' food ministry provided 728 men, women and children in our shelters with 74,460 meals and provided an additional 918 emergency food boxes to homeless individuals and families.

Inter-Faith Ministries is invested in the future of this community, and as such strongly urges the following for the 2007 farm bill:

- 1) Support the entitlement structure of the Food Stamp Program, which responds to increases in need whether due to economic changes or disasters;
- 2) Make benefit allotments adequate by increasing both the minimum benefit and other allotment levels;
- 3) Expand eligibility to more needy people left out of the program now, including all otherwise eligible legal immigrants, ex-drug felons making new starts, and others struggling to make ends meet;
- 4) Liberalize resource rules; streamline enrollment operations, and increase match rates for state administrative operations;
- 5) Support food stamp outreach;
- 6) Continue to allow recipients choice among food purchases and support healthy choices through nutrition education; and
- 7) Continue Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) delivery.

Kansas has seen a nearly 76% increase in food stamp caseloads over the past few years. As the nation's seventh hungriest state, we have seen significant increases in poverty for three years in a row. **Kansas needs the economic stability that the food stamp program brings both to struggling families and to struggling communities.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karole Bradford, Program Director
Campaign To End Childhood Hunger



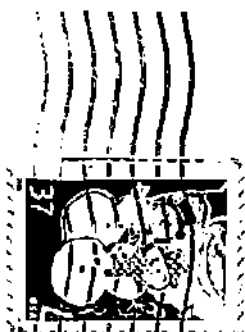
Inter-Faith Ministries

829 North Market

Wichita, Kansas 67214-3519

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE
SECRETARIAT, USDA

2006 JAN -6 A 10: 17



Secretary of Agriculture Mike Johanns
Farm Bill
1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250-3355.

